

15th March 1928]

UNSTARRED QUESTION

General

Action taken on certain resolutions passed by the Setti Balija Association.

1754 Q.—Mr. J. BHEEMAYYA: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received the resolutions passed at the seventh annual meeting of the Setti Balija Association of the East and West Godavari and Kistna districts; and

(b) if the answer to clause (a) be in the affirmative, what action the Government have taken or propose to take with regard to resolutions Nos. 9 and 22?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) No action has been taken on Resolution No. 9 as the Statutory Commission did not propose to take any evidence during their first visit to India. No action has been taken on Resolution No. 22. The appointments of subordinates are within the discretion of the Commissioner of Excise.

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II

NOMINATIONS TO THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE, PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—“I have to announce that the following candidates have been duly nominated for election to the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Advisory Committee:—

- (1) Mr. Abdul Hamid Khan.
- (2) „ C. D. Appavoo Chettiyar.
- (3) „ P. Siva Rao.
- (4) Khadir Moideen Sahib.
- (5) Mr. V. Ch. John.
- (6) D. K. Syed Ibrahim Sahib.
- (7) Mr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva.
- (8) „ Ramanath Goenka.
- (9) „ L. C. Guruswami.
- (10) Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu.

“As the number of candidates exceeds the number of vacancies, namely, two, an election will, as already announced, be held to-day by the ordinary method, between 1–30 and 2–30 p.m.

“I have also to announce that the following candidates have been duly nominated for election to the Public Accounts Committee and the Finance Committee, respectively:—

Public Accounts Committee.

1. Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti.
2. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo.
3. Mr. D. Narayana Raju.
4. „ P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu.
5. „ M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar.
6. „ Ch. K. Subramania Pillai.

7. Khadir Moideen Sahib.
8. Mr. C. Gopala Menon.
9. „ V. Ch. John.
10. D. K. Syed Ibrahim Sahib.
11. Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai.
12. „ S. Venkayya.

[The President]

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Finance Committee.

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| 1. Mr. K. R. Karant. | 7. Mr. V. Ch. John. |
| 2. „ Basheer Ahmad Sayeed. | 8. Rao Sahib R. Srinivasan. |
| 3. „ K. V. R. Swami. | 9. T. M. Moidoo Sahib. |
| 4. „ K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar. | 10. Mr. R. Nagan Gowda. |
| 5. „ Ch. Subramania Pillai. | 11. „ D. Thomas. |
| 6. „ P. Siva Rao. | 12. Rajkumar S. N. Dorai Raja. |

“As the number of candidates exceeds the number of vacancies, viz., seven and six, respectively, in each case, there will be elections by means of the single transferable vote. Hon. Members may receive from the Secretary, ballot papers containing a list of the nominated candidates between 1-30 and 2-30 p.m. to-morrow (16th instant). Hon. Members are at liberty to mark their preferences and deposit the marked ballot papers in the ballot boxes, placed in the Secretary's room before 3 p.m. to-morrow.”

III

MOTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR 1928-29.

DEMAND II—EXCISE.

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move

‘that a sum not exceeding Rs. 37.71 lakhs be granted under “Demand II—Excise”.’”

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—“Mr. President, Sir, I move

‘that the allotment of Rs. 1,86,400 for Superintendence be reduced by Rs. 100, to record disapproval of the excise policy of the Government.’

“It is an unfortunate and unpleasant necessity that year after year we are obliged to urge upon the Government the necessity of revising its excise policy so as to approximate itself as far as possible to the wishes of the people concerned. I am also surprised that my hon. Friend, the Sole Minister, has taken upon himself the responsibility of moving this demand. If the gentleman who was in charge of the portfolio had at least by word of mouth expressed his agreement with regard to the policy of the Government in regard to prohibition, I know, Sir, both by word of mouth and by actual action my hon. Friend, the Sole Minister, differs entirely from his predecessor. It therefore becomes all the more necessary for the House to express its unequivocal disapproval of the Government's indifference. Our tenderness or solicitude to this Minister or that Minister, ought not to stand in our way of voting directly for the amendment and also voting down the whole grant. I do not propose to enter into the question of the merits of the policy of prohibition. That is a question upon which there can possibly be no two opinions at all. Even my hon. Friends of the European community have by their last vote indicated their agreement for the goal of the Government being prohibition but that should be worked out within a period of twenty years. I should like to know whether any beginning has been made towards that policy so as to be able at least at the completion of the 20th year to say that there was no drink. Mr. President, I cannot repress tears in my eyes when I consider the question how the Government have been very sedulously increasing the drink in this country. As a matter of fact, the Government reports reveal that they are having an increased revenue with increase in consumption. The Government are